

REMARKS

Claims 19-21 have been added. Support for Claim 19 can be found in original Claim 1. Support for Claims 20 and 21 can be found in the specification at least at pages 31-32 {see formulae (1-16), (1-19) and (1-21)}.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 3-9, 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter (page 4, numbered paragraph 6 of the Official Action). Accordingly, Claims 3, 7, 8, and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-9, 16 and 17 are allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 2003307839. The JP 2003307839 reference was published on October 31, 2003. The present application claims priority to four Japanese Patent Applications, including Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-373531, filed on December 25, 2002, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-373625, also filed on December 25, 2002. Each of these priority documents has a filing date before the publication of the JP 2003307839 reference on October 31, 2003. As set forth in the MPEP, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) can be overcome by submitting a certified copy of the priority document and a certified English language translation of the priority document if the document is in a language other than English {See MPEP §706.02(b)}. Certified copies of all four priority documents are also enclosed. Certified English language translations of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-373531 and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-373625 are also submitted herewith. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

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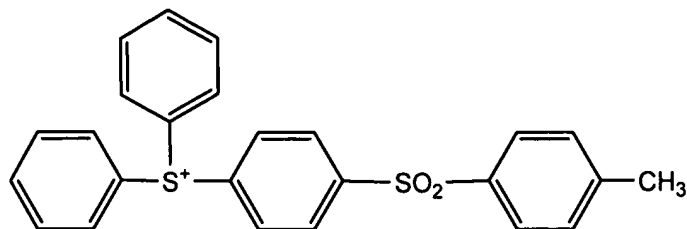
Claims 14 and 15 have only been rejected over the JP 2003307839 reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that by overcoming this rejection, Claims 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 15 depends from Claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 14 and 15 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 08027209. According to the Official Action, the JP 08027209 reference discloses a compound as set forth in original Claim 1 and having an $-SO_2R_3$ group wherein R^3 is a substituted aromatic group. Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,374,066 to Crivello (hereinafter referred to as "Crivello"). According to the Official Action, Crivello describes a compound as set forth in original Claim 1 having an $-SO_2R_3$ group wherein R^3 is an unsubstituted aromatic group. The compounds disclosed in these references and relied upon by in the Official Action each have an $-SO_2R_3$ group wherein R^3 is an aromatic group. Claim 1 has been amended to remove substituted and unsubstituted aromatic groups from the recited options for the group R^3 . Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by the JP 08027209 reference or Crivello. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

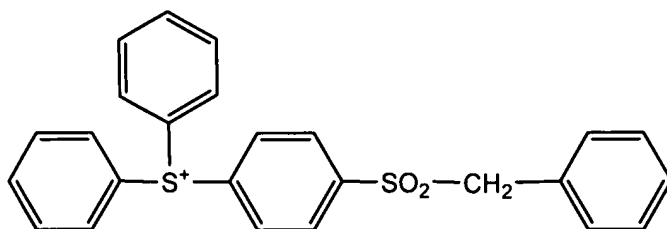
New Claims 19 -21 have been added. Claim 19 is directed to onium salt compounds as set forth in original Claim 1 wherein, when A is a sulfur atom, m is 2 or 3 and n is 0 or 1. The compounds relied upon in the Official Action have only a single Ar^1 group (i.e., m=1 for both of these compounds). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

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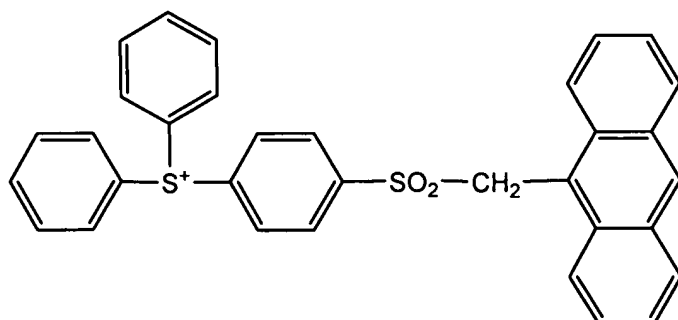
that Claim 19 is patentable over the cited references. New Claim 20 is directed to onium salt compounds having a cation moiety selected from the group consisting of:



;



; and



These compounds, which are disclosed in the specification as formulae (1-16), (1-19) and (1-21), respectively, meet the limitations of formula (1) of Claim 1 wherein P is an $\text{-SO}_2\text{R}^3$ group and R^3 is an aromatic group. It is respectfully submitted that these compounds are not disclosed in or suggested by the cited references and are therefore patentable. Claim 21 depends from Claim 20 and is therefore also patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

January 6, 2006

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Patent & Trademark Office

Respectfully submitted,

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